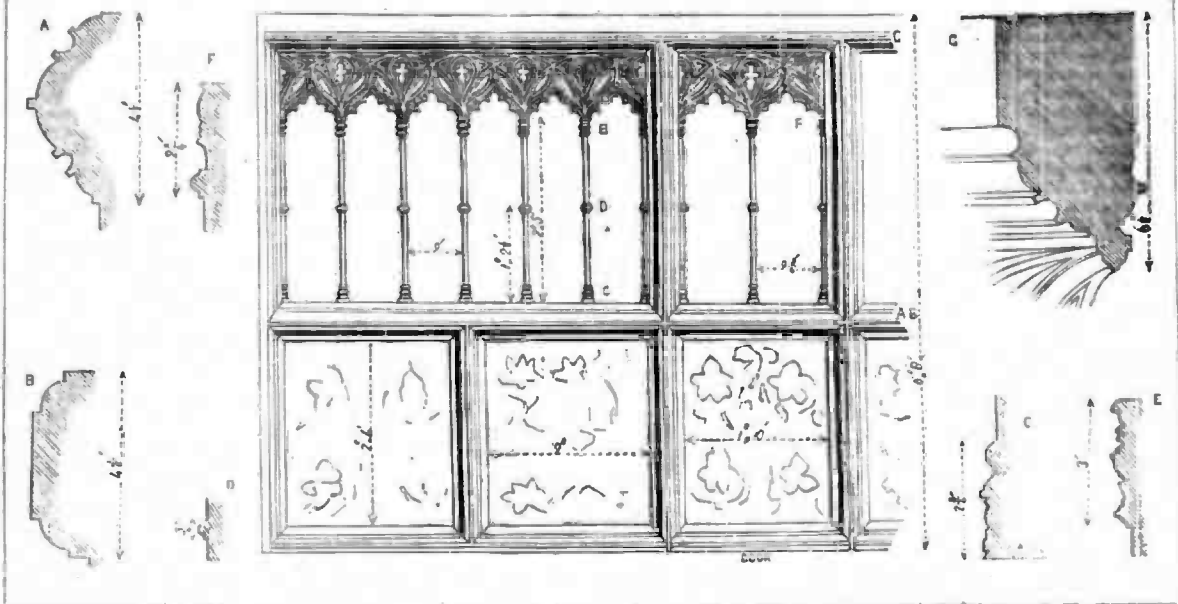


DECORATED SCREEN IN LEAKE CHURCH.



NORTHFLEET CHURCH, KENT.

A PLEASANT village is Northfleet, and many pleasant hours have we spent there. Although so close to Gravesend, that large tea-garden by the water's side—if we may so speak—it still retains its rural aspect and ancient quiet. The old church, dedicated to St. Botolph, stands on the north side of the village, and, to those who know how to observe, will afford interesting matter for contemplation. It is a spacious building consisting of nave with side aisles, a large chancel, and a massive square tower at the west end. The latter is a modern addition, erected, according to Hasted, in 1717. A portion of the nave at the west end is screened off, as an ambulatory. The nave has an open timber roof, and the chancel a boarded ceiling. There are remains of piscina and sedilia on the south side of the chancel, and an early decorated rood-screen, dividing the latter from the nave, of which screen there is an illustration in Parker's Glossary. The windows in the chancel are of the early decorated period (beginning of the 14th century) of good design. As we are often asked by our country readers for available examples of windows, we have selected two from this church for illustration.

The first is from the south side of the chancel; the second, shewing only the head of the window, is from the east end of the south aisle. A is a plan of the jamb, which is the same in both cases.

Scattered about in the pavement, the visitor will find many of the old tiles, and a few loose brasses worthy of examination. He will notice, too, the parish chest, bound with iron, and observe some well-sculptured drapery in a monument dated 1703.

COMPETITIONS.—Designs are wanted for a building suitable for an atheneum and mechanic's institute at Sheffield, with warming and ventilating apparatus, gymnasia, &c. and coffee-room, news-room, library, &c. &c. The chosen architect to carry out his own designs.—Plans also are wanted for almshouses to be erected by the pawnbrokers' charitable institution at West Ham. No premium or payment is offered or promised for these.

IMPROVEMENT OF TOWNS.—A bill for consolidating in one Act certain provisions usually inserted in Acts for paving, draining, cleansing, lighting, and improving towns, has just been read a first time in the House of Commons. It is a sort of model bill for future private Acts for such purposes.

WOODEN DECORATED SCREEN IN LEAKE CHURCH, YORKSHIRE.

THE study of the earlier examples of ecclesiastical wood-work is becoming daily more necessary, in consequence of the vast number of churches erecting in the early English and decorated styles, in which the chaste effect so desirable is frequently marred by florid wood-work.* Several decorated screens have been published, but I believe the one given above has not hitherto been noticed. It separates the north chantry in Leake Church, from the nave and north aisle, and though much of it has disappeared, it is still a great ornament to the church, retaining its ancient paint in tolerable perfection. The mullions, shafts, and tracery are painted with green and vermillion, the panels with birds, flowers, and fanciful foiled ornaments. There is another peculiar feature in this screen, which very rarely occurs in florid work, I mean in the tracery, which is moulded on both sides of the screen, the florid screens having the interior quite plain. It is to be regretted that so little care is taken of this interesting relic. The south chantry of the same church has a mutilated late florid screen and two exquisite stall-heads, dated 1519; of the rood-screen only the panels remain, though the tracery is still remembered.

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NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

AN "old inhabitant" of Cambridge, while assuring the *Chronicle* of the "general satisfaction" with which the announcement of an intention to build club-chambers for public purposes has been received, suggests the "establishment of a regular market-house underneath some of the rooms," and the formation of a double front, by the extension of the proposed buildings from one thoroughfare backwards to another, on the corporation property on which it is proposed to build these new municipal club-chambers. Strange to say, the city of Cambridge is still without what almost every town in the empire has,—a market-house; so that the acquisition of such a desideratum, in this era of railway revolution,

* Later also, the new church of St. John, Darlington, is designed in the early English style, with a stiff obtuse florid tracery roof. To produce any thing like a good general effect, I conceive early English roofs should possess at least an equilateral-triangular section, and carefully foliated, save in its later specimens, when foliated circles and triangles may be sparingly used. The same church is to have a paneled door. A plain one with iron-work would have been far more suitable.

ought to give an additional spur to the impetus with which it is to be hoped the new architectural idea will be forthwith carried out into a "local habitation and—a name;" for even a telling, brief, and comprehensive name, is yet a desideratum for this new collective idea, and such a name, too, is of much importance, however little there may in many cases be "in a name."—The metropolis has had an energetic example set before it in the prompt realization of the project, only lately started, of an abattoir at the Trowse station, on the Norfolk Railway. Two sets of slaughter-houses have been built with every convenience for the daily slaughter of 100 beasts and 300 sheep. The buildings and yards are inclosed within high brick walls, and adjoining the slaughter-house there is a large water-tank. Trucks to be loaded with the carcasses run close to the spot.

—The sewerage of the marsh district at Southampton is still under discussion. It seems to be undecided whether the sewers should be cut along the public roads or under property let out to private parties. The council's approval of a plan on the latter principle proposed by the committee has been rescinded, and the further consideration of the question referred back to the committee.—The architect's report on the repairs more or less necessary at Northwood church, Isle of Wight, being of too sweeping and extensive an order for the parish funds, or rather for the liberality or ability of the requisite subscribers, amounting indeed to the virtual rebuilding of the whole edifice, the architect has been requested to furnish an account of the repairs only which are absolutely necessary.—The price of gas at Cowes has been reduced from 12s. 6d. to 10s. per 1,000 cubic feet, in consequence of the late somewhat subdued grumbling of the consumers. As at Sunderland, before the wholesale reduction of the charge for public lamps from 45s. to 17s., any further reduction no doubt "could not possibly pay," until a more determined spirit is displayed by those who do pay. The Salisbury directors have come down a step lower than their brethren at Cowes, having reduced the price to 8s. 6d. per 1,000 feet, with a further reduction to a considerable extent where large quantities are consumed. At Romsey, no reduction from the original 12s. 6d. has as yet been obtained; but the proper means are in the way of being taken by the consumers, many of whom have determined to become as far as possible non-consumers, by burning as little as they can, until the price be reduced to a less extravagant standard.—The foundations of the new Roman Catholic Chapel at Salisbury are nearly completed.—The Plymouth council